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LETTER DATED 9 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 2 June 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English/French]

Statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 2 June 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

1. The European Union is very deeply concerned about the continuing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the grave situation in which an intensification or prolongation of the conflict would involve the country and the whole region.

2. The European Union calls on all the warring parties to respect humanitarian laws. All the armed forces present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, regardless of their affiliation, must avoid military operations resulting in the civilian population becoming hostages and victims of the conflict.

3. It recalls its statements of 11, 19 and 27 August 1998 and 17 February 1999 and reiterates that the crisis can only be resolved through a negotiated peace which is fair to all parties, by taking account of the security interests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbouring States and through respect for the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of all States in the region and for democratic principles and human rights.

4. The European Union welcomes Security Council resolution 1234 (1999) adopted on 9 April 1999 and calls upon all the parties concerned to comply immediately with the terms of that resolution. It again urges all the parties involved in the conflict to redouble their efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement, to operate an orderly withdrawal of the forces engaged in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to prepare for the deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force which would be followed by an international conference on peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes Region.

5. It welcomes the appointment of Mr. Niasse as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. It is following with interest the plan for a "national debate" proposed by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It considers that such a debate could help bring about a return to peace. The European Union would be prepared to consider financial assistance if the following conditions were met:

(a) It was organized by an independent authority;

(b) All the parties concerned were allowed to take part in it;

(c) Its agenda was approved by all the participants and enabled a genuine dialogue to take place on the institutions and the conditions for establishing civil peace, the rule of law and democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7. The European Union welcomes the agreement signed in Sirte (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) on 18 April between the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda and co-signed by the Presidents of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Chad and Eritrea, the declarations adopted by the Presidents of Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda in Dodoma on 5 May and in Dar-es-Salaam on 1 June, the Sirte Summit on 14 and 15 May, as well as the Rwandan Government's unilateral declaration of 28 May of an end to hostilities, and considers these to be positive steps towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict. It hopes that these initiatives are fully in line with the mediation role conferred by the Southern Africa Development Community upon the President of Zambia, assisted by the Presidents of Mozambique and Tanzania and supported by the Organization of African Unity. It reiterates its support for the "Lusaka process", which has recently made encouraging progress, and again strongly urges all parties to the conflict to play a constructive role to ensure that a ceasefire agreement can be signed as quickly as possible.

8. This statement is supported by the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union, by Cyprus, which is also associated, and by the European Free Trade Association countries which are members of the European Economic Area.